

Region 3 GPRA Baseline RCRA Corrective Action Facility

Koppers Industries, Inc. (Formerly: CSX Transportation)

**98 Railroad Street
Green Spring, WV 26722
Congressional District 2
EPA ID #: WVD003080959
Last Updated 07/28/2005**

Current Progress at the Site

In Spring and Summer of 2001, Koppers Industries, Inc. (Koppers) submitted the preliminary results of the January soil and groundwater investigation and the re-sampling of additional wells in May 2001 to EPA. The objectives of this investigation conducted in January were to evaluate the extent of ground water contamination in the area where an oil sheen on the North Branch of the Potomac River was observed and to gather additional data to confirm the preliminary environmental indicator determinations. The May 2001 investigation was conducted to evaluate whether the existing analytical data associated with the wells sampled was representative of aquifer conditions. In the Winter of 2001, Koppers implemented a pre-design investigation to address the petroleum hydrocarbon sheen release.

On March 20, 2002 EPA and West Virginia Division of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) met with the CSX Transportation (CSXT) representatives to discuss the future direction of the RCRA Corrective Action Project. As a result of the meeting CSXT and Koppers determined that all future investigations will be conducted under the Facility Lead Program administered by EPA. In addition, based on discussions at this meeting, EPA, WVDEP and the CSXT representatives collectively agreed with the pre-design conceptual remedial approach presented for the petroleum hydrocarbon sheen and the recommendations to conduct additional environmental indicator investigations. On April 19, 2002 CSXT submitted the Pre-Design Investigation and Conceptual Design Petroleum Hydrocarbon Sheen Report to WVDEP. On June 20, 2002, CSXT submitted the Phase II Environmental Indicator Investigation Work Plan to EPA. Upon approval of the Work Plan, CSXT subsequently submitted the Phase II Environmental Indicator Investigation Report on June 28, 2004. This report defines the extent of contamination at the site. Approval was granted for a Barrier Wall Containment System with recovery wells for extraction of contaminated groundwater to be pumped back to the facility for inclusion into the plant's wastewater treatment system. On August 20, 2004, the system was completed and began pumping the contaminated groundwater to the plant.

When the groundwater recovery system became operational, Koppers met the Environmental Indicators for Current Human Exposures and Migration of Contaminated Groundwater Under Control. CSXT has implemented an operation and maintenance program at the site.

Site Description

Koppers owns and operates the wood preserving plant located on the North Branch of the Potomac River at the northern edge of Hampshire County in northeastern West Virginia. The facility is on the south side of the river opposite Oldtown, Maryland which is approximately 12 miles downstream from Cumberland, Maryland. Surrounding land is agricultural or mountainous forest land, except in the immediate vicinity of the facility. The plant utilized a series of impoundments to treat wastewater from the wood preserving operations. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (B & O) began wood preserving operations at the plant in 1911. The B & O operated the facility until 1933 when Koppers was reportedly contracted to operate the plant for the railroad. On December 31, 1973, Koppers purchased the facility from B& O.

The products produced at the plant consist of railroad cross ties, utility poles and piling. Waste water from the production operations of these products were channeled to an impoundment system to allow the settling of sludge prior to discharging to the North Branch Potomac River. The ponds were in operation from 1961 until 1977, when the sludge material was removed and landfarmed. The landfarming practice consisted of spreading waste materials on the ground surface and then incorporating the waste, by tilling, into the surficial soil zone, fertilizing and seeding. The former landfarm covers approximately 3 acres of relatively flat grassland northeast of and down gradient from the old impoundment system. The excavated areas were backfilled. A new biological wastewater treatment system was completed in early 1977. This system consisted of a two-cell evaporation and settling lagoon and a spray field for the management of the clarified wastewater. In October 1980, a RCRA Part A Permit Application was filed and the impoundments operated under interim status. In January 1985, the Part B Permit Application was submitted and later revised in May 1986. In May 1988, the Part B Permit Application was denied. The surface impoundments were closed in the summer of 1988. The facility petitioned for RCRA Clean Closure and were subsequently denied due to the presence of PAHs in the soil underlying the former impoundments. A Post Closure Care Permit Application was submitted to WVDEP in 1995. A Post Closure Care Permit was issued in June 1997 requiring routine groundwater monitoring and reporting as well as cap maintenance. Prior to closure of the impoundments, separation and industrial evaporation techniques were employed to achieve a zero-percent wastewater discharge. No wastewater has been discharged from the site since 1988.

Site Responsibility

RCRA Corrective Action activities at the Koppers facility are being conducted as a joint lead by EPA and WVDEP. The investigation and any necessary clean up activities are being implemented in accordance with the WVDEP Post Closure Permit.

Contaminants

April 1999 groundwater data in the landfarm area detected benzene and naphthalene in the landfarm area wells above Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL) and Risk-Based Concentrations (RBCs) for tap water, respectively. Groundwater data collected in the main plant area detected several Poly-aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH). Naphthalene was detected at a concentration exceeding RBC for tap water.

On August 17, 2000, an oil sheen was discovered on the North Branch of the Potomac River. The sheen appeared to have been coming from the area near the bank of the facility. The size of the sheen was approximately 3 inches by 6 feet.

A soil and groundwater investigation was conducted in January to confirm these results and characterize the contamination contributing to the oil sheen detected on the North Branch of the Potomac River.

Community Interaction

Community interaction was solicited during the post closure care WVDEP permitting process during the permit renewal in 1997. On December 31, 1998, Koppers was named in a civil complaint as a defendant, filed by citizens of Springfield, Hampshire County; Ridgeley, Mineral County and Green Spring, Hampshire County of West Virginia alleging that personal injuries or death occurred from exposure to creosote and other toxic substances generated by the facility.

Government Contacts

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For more information about EPA's corrective action web page, including Environmental Indicators, please visit our site at: www.epa.gov/reg3wcmd/correctiveaction.htm